

Senate Chamber, Thursday, November 13, 1863
10 o'clock A. M.

Senate met, prayer by the Chaplain, roll called, quorum present. The journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

Mr. Harcourt, Chairman of Judiciary Committee, on behalf of said Committee reported a substitute for bill for relief of Robert Price and recommended its adoption. Also bill to amend the 1st, 2nd and 3rd sections of an act to punish persons who evade or assist in evading the Conscript Laws and recommended that it do not pass. Also the following reports: "The Committee have considered a bill to regulate voting in certain cases and instruct me to report the same back to the Senate and recommend that it do not pass. The qualification of citizenship and the right of exercising the elective franchise are fully defined and guaranteed in the State Constitution and such citizens could not be disfranchised except by due course of the law of the land. Without expressing an opinion as to whether a law upon the subject might be framed so as not to contravene these provisions of the Constitution the Committee are of the opinion that the proposed legislation is unnecessary and inexpedient."

"The Committee have considered a bill for the benefit of holders of Land Certificates issued to the Memphis, El Paso, and Pacific Rail Road Company and instruct me to return the same back to the Senate and recommend that it do not pass. The object of the bill is to grant patents to the holders of Land Certificates issued under the provisions of the act incorporating said railway company and the Committee are of opinion that no legal or equitable grounds are presented which would justify the relief sought. If the parties have any legal rights they can be enforced in the courts. If the rail road is ever completed the distance of 25 miles as provided in the 17th section of the charter the patents will be duly issued. If the road is not so completed the inducement for granting the land will have failed and the title should not be issued."

Mr. Ford, Chairman of the Committee on Public Printing, reported that the Committee had contracted for 10 copies of the *Weekly Gazette* for each Senator at the rate of 30 dollars per hundred and for 2,000 copies of the Inaugural Address of Governor Murrah at the sum of 132 dol-

lars, the Senate furnishing the paper.

Mr. Wootten made the following report showing the data required to be shown by a resolution of the Senate on that subject.

"The number of sections of land in the Memphis, El Paso and Pacific Railroad belonging to the state is 473. Sectionized by other rail roads for the state is 1,858. By the LaVaca Navigation Company, 48 sections. Galveston and Brazos Navigation, 71. Alternate sections of the Fisher and Miller Company, 3,000. Total 5,250 sections. In addition there are twelve leagues set apart for Indian purposes which have not been sectionized or disposed of by legislation. Of the fifty leagues of land set apart for the University there have been sold 58,683 acres and of this amount there are 10,101½ acres sold on which no payment has been made."

Mr. Lea offered the following: "**Resolved** that the Committee on Finance inquire and report concerning the expediency of selling to the Confederate Government all the cloths made at the penitentiary, except such portions as may be necessary for providing food and other supplies for the establishment and for meeting demands of the Military Board of this state." Adopted.

Mr. Guinn introduced a bill repealing certain provisions of the revenue laws relative to the tax upon stills. Read 1st and 2nd times and referred to Committee on Finance.

Mr. Durant presented the account of J. C. Glover. Referred to Committee on Claims and Accounts.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill requiring Aliens to perform service. Read 1st and 2nd times and referred to Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Maxey offered the following: "**Resolved** that the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into the propriety of reporting a bill requiring the Chief Justices of the several counties to redeem and withdraw from circulation all their issues of a denomination exceeding One Dollar and that they report by bill or otherwise." Adopted.

Mr. Guinn offered the following: "**Resolved** that the Committee on Public Printing is authorized to contract with the publisher of the *State Gazette* for 10 copies of the *Weekly Gazette* for the use of the President." Adopted.

A message from the House announced the passage of

a bill prescribing the duties of District Attorneys in certain cases.

Mr. Jowers moved to reconsider the vote taken on yesterday which adopted the resolution offered by Mr. White relative to the appropriation of the Senate Chamber for balls or other amusements. Carried. Mr. Jowers then offered the following substitute: "**Resolved** that the President of the Senate be and he is hereby requested not to grant the use of the Senate Chamber for balls or parties during the present session."

On Mr. Lea's motion the resolution and substitute were laid on the table.

Honorable C. B. Shepard, Senator elect from 23rd Senatorial District, presented his credentials, took the oath of office and his seat.

A message was received from the Governor nominating the Honorable R. J. Townes as Secretary of State, which was on motion taken up and the nomination confirmed.

A bill granting land to Texas soldiers in the Confederate States service was read 2nd time and made special order for Saturday next at 11½ o'clock A. M.

A joint resolution asking the repeal of all property exemption laws was read 2nd time and made special order for Monday next at 11 o'clock A. M.

A bill to further proceedings in the Supreme Court was read 2nd time and made special order for Tuesday next at 11 o'clock A. M.

A bill to amend the 11th and 13th sections of an act to organize County Courts was read 2nd time. A report of the Judiciary Committee recommending that it do not pass was adopted.

House bill prescribing the duties of District Attorneys in certain cases was read 2nd time and referred to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Moore of Davis reported the following bills correctly engrossed: A bill for relief of George E. Burney; a bill for relief of A. J. Vaughn; and a bill to prohibit Sabbath breaking.

The Senate then adjourned until 10 o'clock A. M. tomorrow.